

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-9 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. Claim 10 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Entry of this change is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-9 are allowable.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)***

The Examiner has rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Flahaut *et al.* (*Acta Mater.* 48:3803-3813 (2000)), Dong *et al.* (*Mater. Sci. Eng. A313*:83-87 (2001)), or Chen *et al.* (*Adv. Eng. Mater.* 5:514-518 (2003)).

Solely to facilitate prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claim 10. In view of this cancellation, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)***

The Examiner has rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly being unpatentable over China abstract 1465729, Bian *et al.* (*Adv. Mater.* 15:616-621 (2003)) or Bian *et al.* (*Appl. Physics Let.* 82:2790-2792 (2003)).

Solely to facilitate prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claim 10. In view of this cancellation, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Scott M. Woodhouse  
Agent for Applicants  
Registration No. 54,747

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

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